

DAILY STAR

THE NEWS..
THE GOSS..
THE PICS..
THE SPORT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2006

SIMPLY THE BEST... 7 DAYS A WEEK 35p

OWN THIS £12k
MINI FOR
PENNIES



Page 24



We've got THE must
have Xmas prezzie

10 **Wii**
MUST BE
WON
TODAY

Page 33

ALL FUR
FASHION:
Madge steps
out in her
chinchilla
skin coat



LIKE A VERMIN



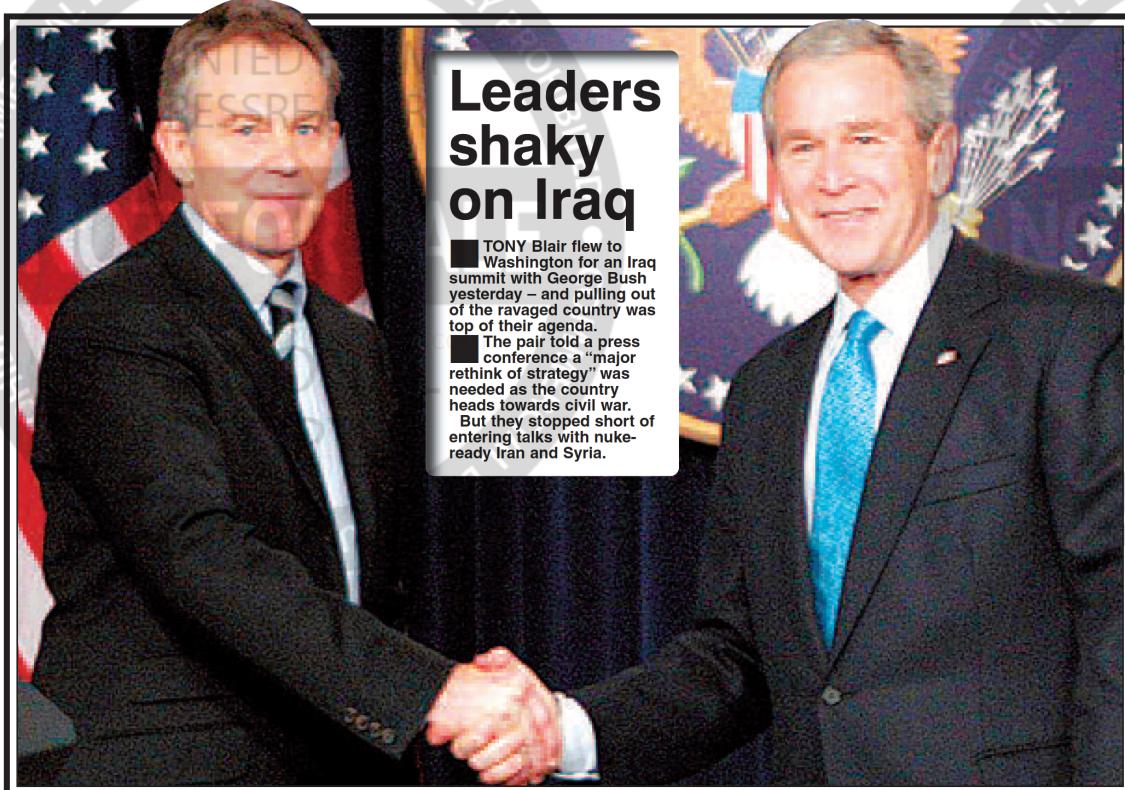
**Madge gets death
threats over £35k
coat made of rats**

EXCLUSIVE

SINGER Madonna is living in
terror of animal rights activists
after flaunting a £35,000 coat
made of rodent fur.

The designer number was
made of the skins of more than
40 chinchillas - a rat-like animal.
Animal campaigners are fur-
ious with the Like A Virgin star,
who fears her family could be
the target of attacks.

Full tail: Pages 4 & 5



Leaders shaky on Iraq

TONY Blair flew to Washington for an Iraq summit with George Bush yesterday – and pulling out of the ravaged country was top of their agenda. The pair told a press conference a “major rethink of strategy” was needed as the country heads towards civil war. But they stopped short of entering talks with nuke-ready Iran and Syria.

Happy Birthday



Thought for the day...

If a mute swears, does his mother make him wash his hands with soap?

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7 DAYS A WEEK

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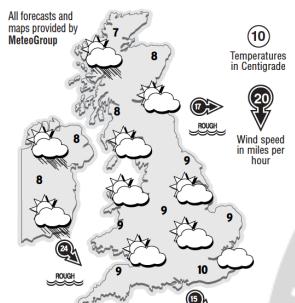
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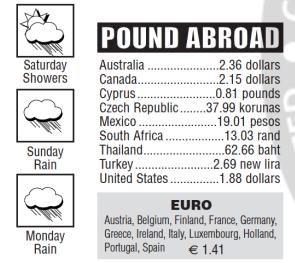
INFO STATION

TODAY: Central and eastern England and eastern Scotland will be breezy with sunny spells. The far southeast of England will be cloudy. Western areas will be bright with scattered showers, especially on the coast.

OUTLOOK: Tomorrow, bright, with scattered showers in the west. Sunday, wet and windy, but mostly dry in the south.



THREE DAY OUTLOOK



POUND ABROAD

Australia	2.36 dollars
Canada	2.15 dollars
Cyprus	0.81 pounds
Czech Republic	37.99 korunas
Mexico	19.01 pesos
South Africa	13.03 rand
Thailand	62.66 baht
Turkey	2.69 new lira
United States	1.88 dollars

EURO

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€ 1.41

ABROAD

Alicante	sun	16c	(51)	Moscow	cloudy	6c	(49)
Barcelona	showers	17c	(52)	New York	sun	18c	(50)
London	sun	18c	(54)	Paris	rain	17c	(51)
Los Angeles	sun	18c	(64)	Rhodes	cloudy	17c	(63)
Majorca	sun	17c	(63)	Rome	cloudy	19c	(66)
Miami	cloudy	24c	(75)	Tenerife	sun	22c	(72)

Star Weather

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90.3% of the raw material for
our newspapers in 2005

LABOUR'S MIGRANT POLICY IN TATTERS

...and next wave on way

LABOUR'S pledge to restrict workers arriving from Bulgaria and Romania lay in tatters yesterday.

It emerged that thousands of bogus businessmen are poised to flood into Britain.

Immigration minister Liam Byrne admitted the planned access to the labour market is open to abuse because workers will claim they are self-employed and will then be free to enter.

It means thousands of bogus businessmen can head to the UK.

And it destroys Home Secretary John Reid's plans to limit the number of low-skilled workers allowed in – as many as more can simply say they work for themselves.

The revelation came as Mr Byrne also admitted he has no idea about the numbers likely to come from Bulgaria and Romania next year.

The Home Office also doesn't know what impact it will have on communities and services. In an added blow, it was revealed that Romanian authorities are threatening

■ by MARIANNE PARTASIDES

ing to take Britain to court over its plans to restrict workers.

Sir Andrew Green, chairman of pressure group Migrationwatch UK, said: “It is quite clear that the Government has not the slightest idea how many immigrants will come from Romania and Bulgaria.

“Nor do they have any effective controls in place to stop them working illegally.

Powerless

“This is the result of years of denial and negligence.”

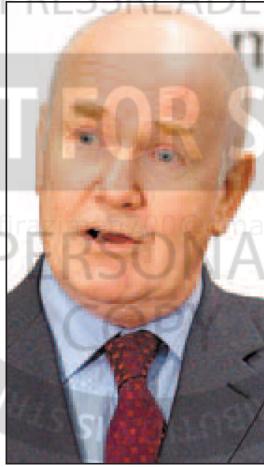
Mr Reid has said no more than 20,000 low-skilled workers a year will be allowed into Britain from the two countries when they join the EU in January.

But ministers have accepted they are powerless to stop self-employed workers because of EU rules on free movement.

Grilled by MPs yesterday, Mr Byrne admitted: “While there is the possibility for people to come and work as self-employed there is the potential for abuse.”

John Reid

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NUMBERS PLAN: John Reid

384 in jumbo terror

■ PASSENGERS on a Virgin Atlantic jumbo jet were terrified yesterday when the pilot was forced to abort take-off.

He slammed on the brakes at full speed with the nose-wheel in the air.

The plane, with 384 passengers on board, was due to fly from Heathrow to New York's JFK airport.

■ The flight had already been turned round an hour out over the Atlantic because of “electrical problems”.

The plane and its passengers sat on the Tarmac for several hours while the fault was fixed.

But when the pilot was taking off he realised the fault still existed and decided to abort.

■ One passenger said: “It was terrifying. We were thrown forward into our seatbelts. We were already a bit worried because of the time we'd spent on the Tarmac so when this happened we feared the worst.”

The flight was cancelled.

LOTTO DAILY PLAY

THURSDAY DECEMBER 7

2 4 5 8 15 26 27

No tickets matched all 7 balls for the £30,000 prize

SATURDAY LOTTO

DECEMBER 2

9 11 15 31 42 46 27

BONUS BALL

No tickets won the £4.7m jackpot

Dream Number: 4-4-0-7-4-2-7. No £500,000 winners
T'ball: 12, 25, 27, 28, 33 (T'ball 9). One £250k T'ball winner

EURO MILLIONS

FRIDAY DEC 1

4, 8, 16, 37, 41

Lucky Star Numbers 2, 5

No ticket matched the £10.2m jackpot

A CHILD rapist may receive up to £50,000 in damages for “unlawful detention” while held before deportation to Somalia. The failed asylum seeker, 31, finished his eight-year sentence in 2003 but continued to be detained as the Government attempted to arrange for him to leave the country.

The flight was cancelled.



Picture: JEANY SAVAGE

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Full details are also on Page ?? Downloads cost £1.50 plus your usual network SMS rate.

PRINCE WILLIAM



BUZZING: Kate went to a sex shop for Wills, pictured at a charity bash yesterday

Cheeky Kate is planning a very Merry Sexmas

LUCKY Prince William can look forward to a right royal festive season after saucy girlfriend Kate Middleton snapped up some adult toys.

Cheeky Kate, 24, headed to Ann Summers to stock up on raunchy goodies to give her man a Merry Sexmas.

The gorgeous brunette was out with five girlfriends when they stopped off at the sex shop in London's Soho and decided to flash the cash.

Hysterics

The girls were looking for novelty toys to take to a hen weekend, but Kate got carried away when she saw what was on offer to give her 24-year-old Prince Charming a thrill.

She picked a naughty Santa outfit, including a red, fur-trimmed strapless dress, elbow-length red gloves and a white fur hat.

As well as the "Mrs Claus" costume, kinky Kate picked up a £50 Cone sex toy made from "strokeably soft

■ by LEIGH PURVES

silicone" which claims to produce a "gorgeous feel". Kate also splashed out on some willy-shaped drinking straws and penis pasta to spice up dinner time.

An onlooker said: "Kate's friends were all ribbing her about what she bought and they were all in hysterics.

"But they were all so sweet and looked quite sheepish as they headed out of the store."

"One of the girls was clutching an inflatable willy while Kate carried the bag with the other stuff in."

"Prince William is definitely going to be getting more than a kiss under the mistletoe at Christmas if he gets treated to all this stuff."

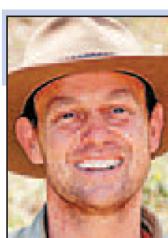
Kate's not the first female toff to enjoy the delights of Ann Summers.

Princess Anne's daughter – and Wills' cousin – Zara Phillips, 25, famously hosted a party for the shop.

And stars such as Corrie actress Kym Ryder, 30, and hellraiser Lindsay Lohan, 20, are fans of its sizzling wares.

The Star Says: Page 6

Leigh.purves@dailystar.co.uk



Jason is all heart

CARING jungle star Jason Donovan is donating his entire I'm a Celebrity appearance fee to charity.

The former Neighbours star said yesterday he'd give his £100,000 earnings to the Oxford Children's Hospital Campaign, on top of sums raised through his vocation.

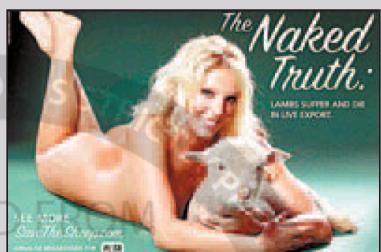
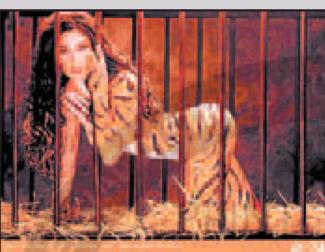
Jason, 38, who has a home in Oxfordshire, said: "My partner Ange and I are lucky to have two healthy children, so it made me determined to stay in the jungle and help the children who'll be treated by the new hospital."

Fundraising director Alice Gosling said: "We are totally thrilled that Jason had chosen us as his charity."

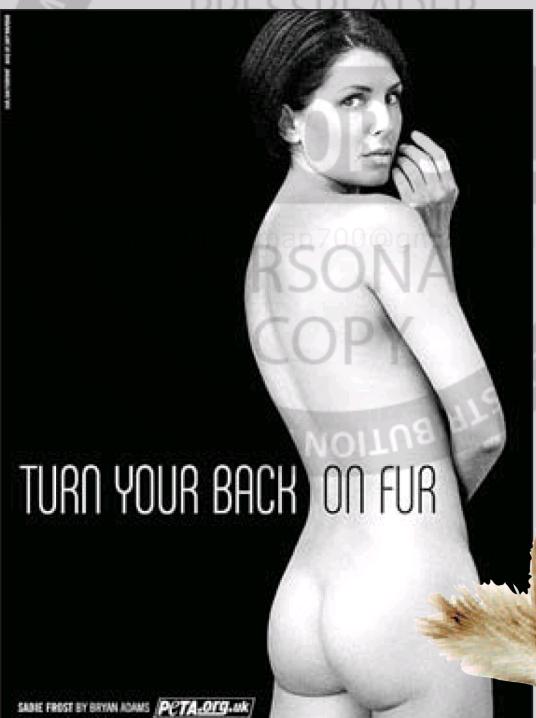
CHIN-CHILLER



Pamela Anderson for PETA FursBeast.com



BARING UP:
Clockwise from top left, Baywatch stars Pamela Anderson and Traci Bingham, tigerish model Annalise Braakensiek, sheepish actress Patricia Manterola and, left, Sadie Frost posing for PETA posters. Below, a chinchilla



The Star Says: Page 6

nadine.linge@dailystar.co.uk

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■ by NADINE LINGE
MADONNA has become the top target of animal rights activists after stepping out in a £35,000 coat made from the fur of more than 40 chinchillas.

The terrified superstar is set to step up security, fearing violent protests over her rodent-skin coat.

Singer Madge, 48, wore the fur as she went out for dinner with husband Guy Ritchie, 38, at swanky Cecconi's restaurant in Mayfair, central London.

And she has already sparked an angry reaction from campaigners, who have branded her a "killer".

Other celebs have faced the fury of animal organisations in the past for wearing fur, while several members of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) have been jailed over the years for attacking the homes of animal testers.

Only yesterday, a militant linked to ALF was jailed for firebombing a family home and planting a bomb in a car.

Now Madonna fears she could be next on the hit list—along with Guy, adopted 14-month-old son David and children Lourdes, 10, and six-year-old Rocco.

Madonna has previously angered designer pal Stella McCartney, 35, by wearing a fur hat. Now she's enraged campaigners worldwide.

Stormed

ALF member Robin Webb said: "If Madonna feels the need to wrap herself in the skin of dead animals, she needs a psychiatrist not a designer."

"I just hope she doesn't encourage young girls to think fur is cool. It's not cool to be draped in a dead animal."

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)—which has stormed catwalks and protested against fur-wearing stars such as Beyoncé Knowles, 25, and Jennifer Lopez, 37—also hit out at Madge.

Karen Chisholm said: "Wearing a coat got Madonna the attention she so desperately craves. But it also brought painful deaths to gentle animals, who died for her vanity."

A spokeswoman for Madge confirmed the coat was real fur, but refused to comment further.

Yesterday, Donald Currie, 40, admitted two attacks on people he thought were linked to animal tests.

Reading Crown Court heard he firebombed one family home and hid explosives under a car in the driveway of another in March this year.

Currie, of no fixed address, was given an indefinite jail term, but will serve at least six years.

The Star Says: Page 6

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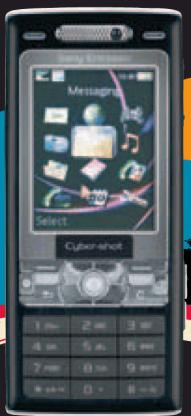
FORMADONNA



SKIN FANS: Madonna in that coat with Guy. Other celeb fur fans include, from top right, singer Charlotte Church, tennis babe Anna Kournikova, model Kate Moss, and Jennifer Lopez, who's faced protests from campaign group PETA

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DAILY STAR says

Madge in a rat trap

MADONNA stuck two fingers up to Stella McCartney & Co when she hit the town in finest CHINCHILLA.

The Material Girl – out of the headlines for a whole day – was snapped in the £35,000 coat made out of dead rodents.

That's right, thirty five grand! More than enough to feed a whole village in Malawi for a YEAR.

With an estimated £250m in the bank she can certainly afford it, but can she afford the hassle?

Wearing a fur coat these days is tantamount to walking out with a target on your head.

The caring image she has carefully nurtured in recent months seems slightly laughable now.

The garment she was wearing was made out of 40 chinchillas.

All killed either by electrocution or having their necks snapped.

Not surprisingly the knives are already out for Madge.

She will quickly learn it's never a good idea to mess with the bunny huggers.

JLo, Naomi Campbell, Claudia Schiffer and Elle Macpherson have all paid the price for sporting fur.

Madonna is bound to be next.

As the famous slogan says: "It takes 40 dumb animals to make a fur coat, but only one to wear it."

Santa gets the sack

YOU just couldn't make it up.

Now playgroup bosses have BANNED Christmas for tots – to avoid upsetting Muslims.

OUT are carols, mince pies, crackers and Santa Claus.

IN are painting sessions, circus skills, games and nursery rhymes.

So it seems that EVEN Christmas is under threat, to the point of cancellation, from the forces of political correctness.

Officialdom's beady little eyes have fallen upon the traditional Christmas that we have all grown to love.

The simple pleasures of pulling crackers, scoffing turkey, drinking too much and stealing a kiss under the office mistletoe are all under dire threat.

Bah Humbug!

Royal blush

SO cheeky Kate Middleton is to sex up Prince William's Christmas after making a visit to an Ann Summers store.

It's enough to make the Queen choke on her turkey!

Tornado destroys 100 homes as gales, HELL AND

WALES
RAGING

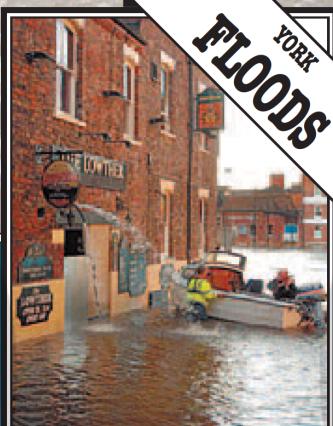


BLACKPOOL
STORMS



UNDER WATER:
Rivers run wild in mid Wales, above, and historic York is flooded after the Ouse burst its banks

YORK
FLOODS



SEASIDE SHOCKER: A bus almost disappears as huge waves crash over Blackpool promenade

storms and floods turn Britain into a disaster movie

HIGH WATER

■ by PAUL MALLEY
ONE hundred homes were wrecked in 10 seconds yesterday as a 130mph tornado hit a city suburb.

And the trail of destruction left terrified witnesses fearing they were seeing "the end of the world".

The London twister battered its way through 10 roads, slicing houses in half, peeling off roofs, overturning cars, uprooting trees and shaking bases as "day turned into night".

Its devastating impact, thought to have caused tens of millions of pounds worth of damage, left streets "looking like a scene from a disaster film".

Other parts of Britain were also battered by gales and heavy rain.

● A cyclist was struck by a flying garden shed at Connor Downs in west Cornwall and a man was airlifted to hospital after a tree smashed down on to his camper van in the county.

● Rail and ferry services were also badly hit and Arriva Trains Wales' services were hit by flooding between Machynlleth and Aberystwyth.

● Some P&O Ferry services between Dover and Calais had to be cancelled and huge seas battered Blackpool.

● In historic York, the River Ouse burst its banks and sandbags were stacked around the city last night to save it from further damage.

Havoc

Back in London, terrified passengers on a BA jet who saw the twister wreak havoc as they flew above feared their plane would be sucked out of the sky.

Miraculously just six people were injured by the freak weather, but it left hundreds homeless.

One man was taken to hospital with a head injury. Five others were treated at the scene for cuts, bruises and shock.

The tornado hit a square mile of Kensal Rise, north London, at 11am.

Witness Caroline Winterburn said: "It suddenly came over very, very black."

"Then there were some lightning strikes and thunder, then large hailstones started crashing down – like something out of a disaster film."

Red Dwarf star Danny John-Jules, 46, who played The Cat in the sci-fi telly series was in a café a few streets away. He said: "It looked like there had been a bomb. It's mad."

Up to 150 children became trapped inside Manor School in Kensal Rise. One teacher said: "All the children were screaming."

"They must have thought they were in a scene from The Wizard of Oz."

Mark Bleach, 23, a builder, said: "I saw wheelie bins flying down the street. Then I saw a roof lift up."

London Fire Brigade sent 11 fire crews and around 50 firefighters to the scene.

More than 60 flights in and out of Heathrow airport were cancelled.

● The UK has the highest number of reported tornadoes for its land area of any country in the world.

Dr Terence Meaden of the Tornado and Storm Research Organisation (Toro), said about 70 tornadoes were reported across the UK in 2004 and 2005, with 40 so far this year.

Paul.malley@dailystar.co.uk



DISASTER SCENE: The entire side of this house was ripped off by the huge winds



Lifeboat crew is rescued

A STRICKEN lifeboat crew had to be winched to safety after getting stuck on a barge they were trying to anchor.

The vessel had broken free from a tug in Force 10 gales.

The brand-new 105-metre-long oil barge was left stranded and drifting dangerously.

A lifeboat was launched near Seaford, Sussex, and the crew managed to climb aboard the empty vessel and drop anchor. But the winds were so strong the two lifeboatmen were unable to get back aboard their vessel and had to be airlifted to safety.

Shoreham Lifeboat station mechanic Mark Blatcher said the lifeboat was being perilously tossed about in the massive waves.

He said: "The sea was extremely rough with gusts of up to force ten with four to five metre swells."

Despite their attempts to save the barge, it broke free again and smashed into cliffs.

Portion of fish 'n slips

A WOMAN was saved after she fell into a raging river while trying to bury her pet goldfish.

The 40-year-old spent an hour clinging to a branch for her life after she lost her footing on the bank.

She was eventually rescued by two police officers who waded into the fast-flowing Tinker Brook, in Oswaldtwistle, Lancs, with a rope.

Difficult

One said: "She looked exhausted, clinging on for her life to the branch. It was difficult to stand but we pulled her out on to the bank."

"She said she was there because she had a dead goldfish she wanted to bury."

The Burnley woman was taken to hospital and was treated for potential pneumonia.

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HEALTH FEARS:
Murder victim Alexander Litvinenko, left, wanted to be buried in Chechnya; his widow Marina is comforted by a friend at the funeral in north London, main picture



Picture: CATHAL MCNAUGHTON

MOSQUE BAN ON DEAD SPY

Body too radioactive, say clerics

POISONED spy Alexander Litvinenko's dying wish for a Muslim funeral was turned down because his body was too radioactive to go into the mosque.

On his deathbed, the KGB defector had reportedly asked for a full Muslim ceremony.

But authorities at Regent's Park Mosque in central London yesterday said they could not take the radiation-ravaged body, even though it was in a lead-lined coffin.

Instead, a private funeral service was held for family and friends at Highgate cemetery, north London.

The service was said to be non-denominational, but was

■ by IAIN BURCHELL

interrupted by an Imam performing a Muslim prayer. Litvinenko, 43, is said to have converted to Islam just days before he died.

He also reportedly became a British citizen – using the fake name "Edwin Carter" – in October.

Risk

Yesterday Walter Litvinenko fought back tears as Muslim leaders told him they could not risk having his son's body, contaminated with lethal polonium 210, in the mosque.

But the Health Protection Agency said the coffin posed no public danger as long as it was sealed.

Mourners at the funeral were led by Litvinenko's widow Marina and

their 12-year-old son Anatoly. Pallbearers included Litvinenko's friends Alex Goldfarb and Chechen separatist Ahmed Zakayev.

Walter spoke in Russian at his son's graveside after an Imam performed Muslim rites.

Litvinenko's friend Vladimir Bukovsky then revealed how the murdered spy asked that his body eventually be moved to Chechnya, a mainly Muslim country.

Bukovsky said: "On his deathbed he asked to be buried when the war is over in Chechen soil. He was a fierce defender of Chechnya."

Alex Goldfarb said: "Officials had told the family that they wanted to cremate the body they would have first had to wait 22 years for the radioactive material to decay."

● Russian authorities yesterday revealed that they have opened a criminal investigation into Litvinenko's poisoning.

And they are also investigating the attempted killing of Dmitry Kovtun. Kovtun – who yesterday fell into a coma in a Moscow hospital – was one of the businessmen Litvinenko met in London on the day he fell ill.

ian.burchell@dailystar.co.uk



SOMBRE:
From left,
The dead man's
father Walter,
and mourners
Zakayev and
Bukovsky

PC gone mad...PC gone mad...PC gone mad...PC gone mad...



TREELESS: Host Kate

Beeb's hit in the baubles

■ by NADINE LINGE
BBC bosses have been forced to put up some Christmas decorations after their bare sets angered viewers.

Outraged licence-payers bombarded the station after noticing there was no tree, tinsel or baubles on the Breakfast show.

They demanded to know if it was another example of political correctness at the corporation.

Spirit

Bosses weren't planning to get into the Christmas spirit for another week.

But they've now agreed to put up decorations for the show, hosted by Dermot Murnaghan, 48 and Kate Silverton, 36, on Monday.

Editor David Kermode said: "The thought of holding out any longer is too much to bear."

Morning rival GMTV's set already has bright decorations and a spokesman said: "We are the home of Christmas cheer."

ARE DO GOODERS HI-JACKING CHRISTMAS?

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No: 0901 031 1522

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TV girl's veil fear

MUSLIM Khadija Ravat wants to pull out of Channel 4's Christmas message because she fears she may nick viewers from the Queen.

The Islamic studies teacher, 34, who wears a veil, claims she did not know the broadcasts would be screened at the same time.

Last night she said: "I don't want to be competing with the Queen. I'm sure she is a lovely person."

"Her speech will be far more interesting than anything I have got to say."

"I didn't mean to cause a fuss. I did not know how important the Queen's speech is to many people."

Channel 4 said they chose Khadija because the veil debate is topical.

HUMBUG VICAR BANS SANTA FROM CHURCH



FESTIVE fox Gisele Bündchen unwraps to give the lads an early Christmas prezzie. The perky 25-year-old Brazilian shows it takes just a little ribbon and festive trim to create a sexy winter wonderland. If only she could be among the presents on Christmas morning...

SANTA Claus has been sent packing from church - by the vicar.

Henry Cuff - who's dressed up as Father Christmas every festive season for 30 years - was told to get rid of his red robe and white beard at a civic carol service.

The Rev Tim Storey insisted the "modern" Santa tradition wasn't compatible with Christian worship.

So Lions Club member Henry, 64 - who didn't want to show young children that he wasn't really their ho-ho hero - decided to walk out.

At his home near to the church in Blandford, Dorset, he said yesterday: "I was very upset and certainly didn't want to take off my costume."

"There were lots of children at the service and they would have been very sad if I had gone outside and come back in wearing ordinary clothes."

"It might have ruined the magic of Father Christmas for them. I and the

other Lions decided to go. It was much fairer on the children."

Santa's run-in with the vicar happened after Henry had spent the morning handing out Lions gifts and Christmas wishes in Blandford.

The carols congregation watched gobsmacked as he was told to remove his robes.

Grotto

But Mr Storey - who came under fire in summer for screening World Cup matches at the church - was unrepentant yesterday.

He said: "I have nothing against Father Christmas. My children believed in him and he is great fun."

"But I do not believe that he should be part of church services, any more than a Santa's grotto should have a baby Jesus."

He added: "The World Cup was not part of an act of worship."

news.dailystar.co.uk

Xmas is sacked for the toddlers

■ by JERRY LAWTON

A PLAYGROUP has banned Christmas for tots to avoid upsetting Muslims.

Instead of Christmas carols and mince pies the toddlers will take part in "Winter Celebrations".

Parents who complained to the Government-backed Sure Start playgroup were told the ban was on religious grounds.

Now families are threatening to boycott the nursery in Gleadless, Sheffield.

...Joy Wright, 30, whose 13-month-old twins Amber and Natasha attend the playgroup, raged: "We don't celebrate winter, we celebrate Christmas."

Welcome

Mum-of-two Claire Skinner, 35, whose kids also attend the playgroup, added: "I feel very strongly that we should welcome people from other religions and cultures but we shouldn't forget where we are from."

The Muslim Association of Britain also condemned the move.

Spokesman Shamsul Joarder said: "I've been to a lot of events celebrating festivals with all sorts of religious groups."

"Why should Muslims or anyone else be offended by mention of Christmas?"

Sure Start spokesman Bryan Gocke said: "The programme sees itself in no way cancelling or relegating Christmas but merely ensuring that all religious and cultural festivals are included in its events and activities."

The Star Says: Page 6

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News in brief

NO SONNY JIM FOR ME!



COMIC Jimmy Carr says he never wants to be a dad.

The host of Channel 4 show 8 Out Of 10 Cats says bringing up children is too much responsibility.

Carr, 34 - who has dated TV executive Karoline Copping for five years - said: "There will never be any little Jimmy Carrs. I don't really want to have kids. Having kids is a huge undertaking."

VOW: Jimmy Carr

Hampers on way

AROUND 19,000 hampers will be sent to victims of the collapsed Farepak Christmas savings scheme - but that's still about 4,000 fewer than were ordered.

The first of the "goodwill gesture" food packs will be delivered within the next week or so, said Labour Consumer Minister Ian McCartney yesterday.

Later donations to the Farepak Response Fund were used to buy the hampers from the administrators.

Each pack contains items such as tinned and pre-packed food, confectionery and alcohol.

LEO'S LEARNIN' CURSIN'



SUPERSTAR Leonardo DiCaprio has been out on the lash in South Africa, to research his latest role.

Leo, 32, plays the part of South African diamond smuggler Danny Archer in Blood Diamond - and spent a month going to the pub to work on his accent and local slang.

He said: "I had to get a lot of these South African guys drunk - so they'd curse."

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MOYLES DOES IT AGAIN



CHEEKY Radio 1 host Chris Moyles faced complaints yesterday after jibes about TV presenter Dale Winton and The X Factor's Simon Cowell.

Chris, 32, said of Dale, 51: "He pretends he's a gay but he's got wife and kids at home."

Of Cowell, 47, he said: "He's gay too. Wearing those trousers and jumpers he has to be!"

JIBES: Moyles

Off the shelf home

THE sale of a £65,000 terraced house in Middlesbrough will spark a £1million rush to sell homes through a supermarket chain.

Asda is taking on the estate agents in the north east, selling properties as HomesSupermarkets.

It is poised to sell 80 more homes, including a £950,000 mansion. Asda charges 1% commission and offers free services which can normally cost £2,000.

Chief executive Robert Burden said: "High Street estate agents have had it their own way for too long."

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Game on as gizmo is hit

IT promises a gaming experience that goes further than any other.

The Nintendo Wii gives you the chance not just to play sports, but to physically carry out the actions when you play.

It sounds bizarre – and it does feel that way as you pick up the infra-red remote control.

First up in our special "test drive" was a boxing game.

Our testing team wrapped the wrist bands on the "wiimote control" round their hands and pushed back the furniture.

Swinging their fists wildly as they hammered at the buttons this was high energy action.

It's much more fun – and more exhausting – than sitting on the sofa and clicking the handset while playing.

Nintendo has even had to issue gamers with safety guidelines after reports that people had damaged furniture and the handsets during high-spirited contests.

There's no doubt this system's huge capabilities. Our testers also enjoyed tennis and golf.

Its makers boast of its built-in wi-fi capacity, and it can even tune into the internet when it is switched off.

As it gets more established, it can only broaden the appeal of gaming even further.

Judging by the fun the Daily Star's testers had trying it out we could all be needing a Wii soon.

CAMERON MILLAR

NOW WIN ONE!

Turn to page 33

Thousands to miss out on latest must-have

■ WAITING GAME: Fans Kate Rolfe, Henry McTighe, Marwan Elgami and Daniel Kirby pass the time while waiting outside HMV in Oxford Street



BURSTING FOR A WII



LUCKY GIRL: This babe's got her hands on a Wii – thousands of others will miss out

Hordes of British gamers who had queued for days to bag the new Nintendo Wii were sent home by police fearing a mass brawl.

They were worried desperate shoppers would try to jump the queue and cause bust-ups when it went on sale this morning.

Nintendo's entire UK stock of Wii consoles is expected to sell out almost immediately after it goes on sale today. And that will leave thousands of youngsters and British gaming fans gutted.

The system features a futuristic wireless "wiimote control", which allows users of the £179 machine to physically act out games.

They can jab like a boxer or serve like a tennis pro as they play.

Four million Wii consoles have been made.

Sold

But it also sold out on its US and Japanese launches.

It became the fastest-selling pre-order item Amazon.co.uk ever had and was snapped up in seven minutes.

Some game fans had been queuing up since Tuesday for the chance of a Wii – pronounced Wee.

They eventually agreed to go home yesterday after leaving their names

and addresses at HMV's flagship store in London's Oxford Street.

It's the only branch of the chain with some consoles that hadn't been pre-ordered.

Event organiser Simon Winter said: "Police came to discourage people from queuing because they would be targeted and others would try and muscle into the queue, causing a problem."

He added: "This is the hottest thing around. People have been coming from all over the country."

Rob Lowe, UK product manager for Wii, said:

"There is a good chance it will sell out today."

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Tops for telly..



Tops for telly..



Jessie doesn't Minder co-star

■ EX-EASTENDERS babe Jessie Wallace gets a Minder in her new telly role.

As our sneak shot from filming shows she's teamed up with George Cole, of Arthur Daley fame, in BBC1 drama *A Class Apart*.

Jessie, 35, who quit her role as Kat Slater a year ago, plays a single mum called Candy. The

■ by NIGEL PAULEY

programme, which is set to hit the small screen early next year, features film and telly veteran George, 81, as her grandad.

■ *A Class Apart* tells the story of how Candy, a cleaner, tries to keep her 11-year-old son on the straight and narrow, with a little help from George.

Who's in my bed

DOCTOR Who will share a bed with his sexy new sidekick Martha Jones.

But they'll keep their clothes on.

The Time Lord, played by David Tennant, 35, gets cosy with sultry Martha (Freema Agyeman, 27) in an episode of the next series early in 2007.

But he's still missing his old flame Rose.

And, confides the BBC, the bed scene is interrupted by a "monster thing".

Johnny's a saint

BEER monster Johnny Vegas is going from sinner to saint.

He's taking a nine-day US journey, meeting preachers and evangelical families.

The funnyman, 35, is a lapsed Catholic who once trained to be a priest as a youngster.

A Channel 4 source said: "It's hilarious watching Johnny try to be polite - and like a saint. It doesn't suit him at all."

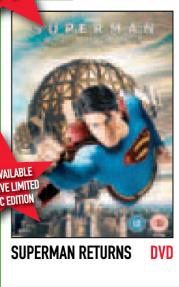
The show will be screened next year.

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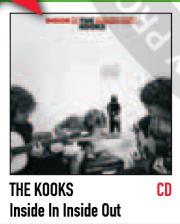
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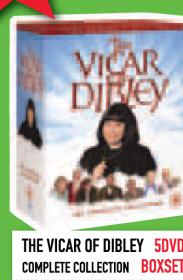
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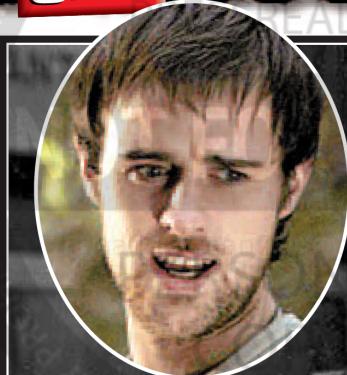
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Tops for telly..

Tops for telly..



TUCKER TIME: How we reckon Matt would look as Tuck and, inset, Jonas Armstrong as Robin



TUCK IN

Rescue Robin, Matt is begged

BEEB bosses are desperate for Matt Lucas to save struggling Robin Hood by playing Friar Tuck in the next series.

They've spoken to the Little Britain funnyman about joining the £8million show as the roly-poly monk.

Matt, 32, is still considering the offer - but has privately admitted he'd love the role.

BBC1 controller Peter Fincham, 49, believes Matt is just the man to give the series a shot in the arm.

He said yesterday: "If Matt Lucas said he'd play Friar Tuck I'd be very happy. He said he would love to do it, if he could."

"It's early days and I'd be lying if I said it would be him. But it would be great if he could take the role."

Friar Tuck was not included in the first run because politically-correct programme-makers didn't feel

EXCLUSIVE

by NIGEL PAULEY

happy about a fat man being seen as a "laughing stock".

But with ratings slumping from over 8million to 5.5m, Fincham has ordered a massive shake-up before giving the go-ahead for a second 13-part run next year.

Fun

He has reverted to his original idea that Robin Hood should be more fun and less "preachy and political".

The Daily Star first revealed in September last year that Fincham wanted Matt in the role of Tuck.

But writers insisted they didn't want fat jokes. And with Matt taking part in a marathon Little

Britain tour the idea was dropped. But a BBC source said: "Peter knows the show is nearly right. It just needs a little something to make it really fizz - a lighter touch. Getting Matt to appear as Tuck would be brilliant."

"He would bring some much-needed humour. Everyone is hoping he can be accommodated."

Jonas Armstrong, 25, plays Robin Hood, with Keith Allen, 53, as the Sheriff and Richard Armitage, 31, as Guy of Gisborne.

Fincham also revealed yesterday that BBC1 will be filming a new family version of Merlin the Wizard for Saturday nights - probably starting in early 2008.

He said: "It will be about Merlin's early days as a young man."

Merlin will run for 13 weeks in the same slot as Doctor Who and Robin Hood.

nigel.pauley@dailystar.co.uk

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Oh Brother... the celebs are back

■ by MARK JEFFERIES

possessions mobile phones, stylists and agents. But commissioning editor Angela Jain revealed: "There'll be lots of surprises and twists this time."

"Some of the ex-housemates will be our eyes and ears on the ground."

Executive producer Paul Osborne told how the house is being remodelled. He said: "It was designed with an inside/outside theme in the summer.

Ornate

"So we've had to change it quite a bit for the winter. No-one wants to eat outside in January!"

"But, essentially, it's the same house - bold and ornate. And there will still be nowhere to hide."

"You'll have to wait until launch night to see exactly what the new features are."

Celebrity Big Brother starts on January 3 on Channel 4.



IN FRAME: Hasselhoff

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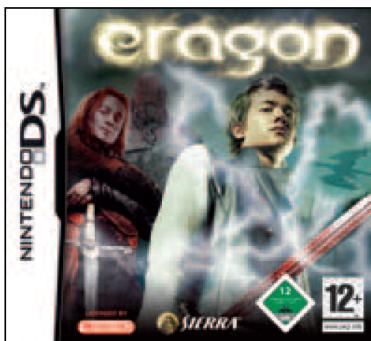
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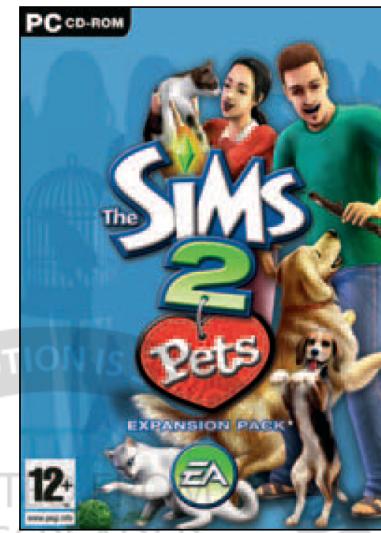
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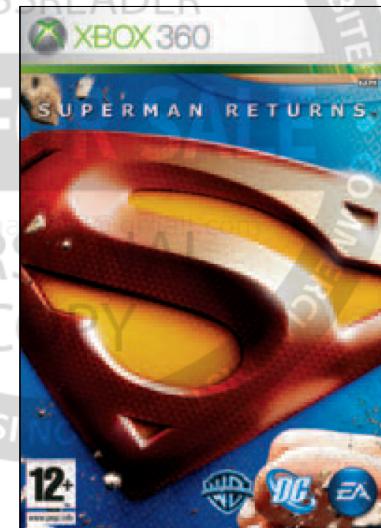
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HUSH HUSH

WHICH well-known couple speak cruelly about their kids? The mother has told pals she wants "nothing to do with them" and sees them merely as a vehicle for publicity. And it's no wonder the children have told pals they regularly want to run away. As well as constantly changing nannies, the couple even forgot their birthdays last year.

Britney lettin' it all out

BRITNEY SPEARS has defended her excessive partying, saying she is merely making the most of being single again.

Since splitting from **Kevin Federline**, 28, last month, she has frequently been seen out partying with her new best pals **Paris Hilton**, 25, and **Lindsay Lohan**, 20.

The singer, 25, pictured on another night out at an LA club, said: "It's been ages since I've been out on the town with mates." But the mum-of-two, who has been enjoying baring her bits, says those sort of nights are things of the past.

She giggled: "Thank God I've got Victoria's Secrets' new underwear range! I am looking forward to a year of new music and a new me."

Fair play.

A Paris tot? Help!

BATTEN down the hatches, the apocalypse is upon us - **Paris** wants to breed.

La Hilton plans to flood the world with more work-shy blondes. But the 25-year-old wants a sperm donor.

Our mole told us: "She can't find a man it'll work with so she'll go for a sperm donor. She's got the money."

Ain't that just a beautiful thing?

SPOTTED

IN London: **Billie Piper** chasing her dog around Primrose Hill Park with a pooper-scooper; **Simon Cowell** lighting a cig outside Park Lane Hotel; **Liz Hurley** and **David Furnish** stuffing their mashes at The Ivy; **Keira Knightley** and **Rupert Friend** enjoying a smooth outside the Phoenix Theatre; **Ruby Wax** being loud in Harrods.



THE GOSS

With LEIGH PURVES, AMY WATTS and CHARLI MORGAN

POSH JOINS THE A-LIST

Date with Tom, Kate and J.Lo

SHE'S been refused entry to a celebrity enclave, she's even been snubbed by Jennifer Lopez, but Posh hasn't given up trying to crack Hollywood...

And now the determined woman we know and love seems to have finally turned a corner as far as the Los Angeles glitterati are concerned.

We imaging that Mrs Beckham, 32, must have breathed a sigh of relief to be welcomed into the bosom of the elite at a star-studded dinner.

"She looked nervous but like she'd made it," an onlooker told us. It was thanks, again, to her good friends **Katie Holmes**, 27, and **Tom Cruise**, 42, but it enabled her to enjoy a dinner date at last with La Lopez, 37.

Dream

Victoria was said to be devastated to have been snubbed by JLo after they seemed to hit it off at Katie's wedding to Tom in Italy.

Sources reported that she contacted the Latino bombshell's people as soon as they arrived back in California and tried to arrange a meet-up - but to no avail.

And after doorstop at the uber-exclusive Polo Lounge at the Beverly Hills Hotel failed to recognise her, she'd have been forgiven for thinking her dream was over.

But the plucky size 0 soldiered on and yesterday was reaping the rewards as she got to push a lettuce leaf around her plate in the company of the A-list.

Katie had insisted that Victoria accompany them to a dinner at Wolfgang Puck's restaurant in Beverly Hills, where they were meeting up with JLo and her husband **Marc Anthony**, 38.

A mole close to Scientology's latest bride explained: "Basically the dinner was about showing Victoria that she's one of the team now. Victoria's one of them." Aww, but when will she be a fully-fledged Theta?



TOP TABLE:
Posh dined in
Beverly Hills
with Tom
Cruise and
Katie and, left,
J.Lo and Marc
Anthony

Picture: RETNA/CELEBS

HAVE YOU GOT SOME JUICY GOSSIP FOR US?



Imo's back in Big Bother

AT least Big Brother loser **Imogen Stubbs** is milking her 15th minute of fame in style.

The reality TV babe, 24, reminded onlookers why she was once crowned Miss Wales, when she stepped out in this glittery black number at London's Crystal club.

And the almost pointless Welshie proved what a difference a good frock makes at these occasions.

While bona fide stars like **Bjork** garnered less attention than the cold canapes on offer, Imogen spent the night being snapped by shuttlebugs.

All that attention got her into Big Brother with ex TV housemate, **Aisleyne Horgan-Wallace**, 27, who was "seething" according to one onlooker.

QUICKIE.. QUICKIE.. QUICKIE..

LEE Ryan, 23, is gearing up for an US move. He's set to try his hand at directing when he crosses the pond next year. He said: "I have loads of family and friends in LA so that helps." Bless...

LIZ Hurley, 41, hit back at claims her kids' swimwear range

exploits them. She said: "It's ludicrous. I'm a mum and my work is informed by that. You tell 'em..."

OC star Adam Brody, 28, was seen cosily chatting to **Lindsay Lohan**, 20, at a Hollywood hotel. Is it love...?



COLE FIRED UP

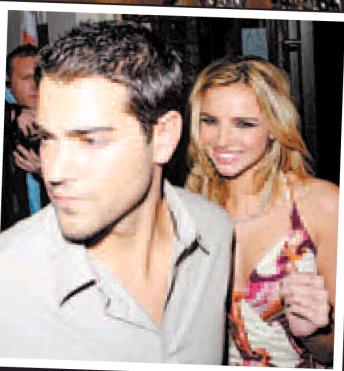
CHERYL Cole got into the festive spirit at *Girls Aloud's* Christmas party – or rather, the festive spirits got into her. The dimpled vixen, 23, above, partied her pop socks off at London's swish Mahiki Club to celebrate the band's greatest hits album shooting to No.1.

She even dragged her reluctant soccer spouse

Ashley Cole, 25, onto the dancefloor.

And they weren't the only couple fighting for a spot under the mistletoe. Bandmate **Nadine Coyle**, 21, was inseparable from her Desperate Housewives hunk **Jesse Metcalfe**, 27, right.

But **Sarah Harding**, 25, left, departed the bash at a civilised hour after a few sherrries. Santa can definitely strike her off his naughty list.



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